



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director
(804) 698-4000

December 7, 2020

Mr. James Crawford Jr
Vice President - Development
Alton Post Office Solar, LLC
c/o Urban Grid
337 Log Canoe Circle
Stevensville, MD 21666

RE: Alton Post Office Solar, LLC

Location: Halifax County
Registration No.: RE0000065

Dear Mr. Crawford:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), after consultation with the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), has completed its review of the September 15, 2020, application by Alton Post Office Solar LLC (Alton Post Office) for coverage under the Small Renewable Energy Project (Solar) Permit by Rule, 9VAC15 Chapter 60. Based upon this review, DEQ determines that the application satisfies the requirements of 9VAC15-60-30 provided that Alton Post Office complies with the following:

- All commitments referenced within the Application Documents including mitigation requirements;
- Submission as soon as practicable of final interconnection agreement according to 9VAC15-60-30 A 4;
- Submission as soon as practicable of final post-construction site map according to 9VAC15-60-70 A, and;

• Removal of all trees in accordance with the requirements of DWR and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect indigenous bat species as set forth in the DWR guidelines and guidance found at:

- <https://dwr.virginia.gov/environmental-programs/environmental-services-section/>
- <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/northern-long-eared-bat-%20application/>
- <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/little-brown-bat-tri-colored-bat-winter-habitat-roosts-application/>
- <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/2020-2021-Virginia-Hunting-and-Trapping-Regulations-Digest.pdf>.

Based upon compliance with the conditions stated above, authority is hereby granted to Alton Post Office to construct and operate a photovoltaic project located along Alton Post Office Road (Route 711), north of Hendricks Road (Route 768), east of Mt. Carmel Road (Route 699), and southwest of Alton in Halifax County, VA on roughly 778 acres; with a cumulative total generating capacity of 75 MW AC, in accordance with all Application Documents, and this letter of approval.

This authorization for construction and operation shall not relieve Alton Post Office of the responsibility to comply with all other applicable local, state and federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to strict adherence to applicable state and local erosion and sediment control/storm water management laws. This authorization does not relieve Alton Post Office of the responsibility to obtain any certification that may be required from the State Corporation Commission.

DEQ strongly encourages Alton Post Office to incorporate the DCR Recommended Actions listed below:

- Use of appropriate seed mix/plants and seasonal mowing developed in consultation with DCR;
- Development of a monitoring and control plan for invasive species;
- The planting of native pollinator plants in the buffer areas of the planned facility, and;
- Minimizing habitat fragmentation by leaving round versus long, skinny natural cover and forest land fragments; retaining connective corridors that allow significant wildlife migration between fragments and designing the intervening landscape to benefit habitat; and natural cover as opposed to turf grass and mowed lawn.

Alton Post Office Solar, LLC
Registration: RE0000065
December 7, 2020
Page 3

DEQ strongly encourages Alton Post Office to incorporate the DWR Recommended Actions by coordinating with DWR regarding wildlife fencing that allows ingress and egress to the enclosure and minimizes the potential for the entrapment of white-tailed deer.

Alton Post Office must notify Mary E. Major, DEQ Office of Renewable Energy Permitting, of the actual date on which construction of the solar project commences and the date of operation as soon as practicable. A notification to DEQ must be made 30 days prior to any transfer of ownership or operation according to the provisions of 9VAC15-60-100 A.

Please note that if Alton Post Office is later found by DEQ not to qualify for coverage under the terms and conditions of the Solar Permit By Rule, then Alton Post Office could be subject to action under the enforcement provisions of the Solar Permit By Rule (9VAC15-60-140) for operation without a permit.

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date of the service of this decision to initiate an appeal of this decision, by filing notice with:

David K. Paylor, Director
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
ATTN: Office of Renewable Energy Permitting
Post Office Box 1105
Richmond, Virginia 23218

In the event this decision is served to you by mail, three days will be added to that period. Please refer to Part Two of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, which describes the required content of the Notice of Appeal, including specification of the Circuit Court to which the appeal is taken, and additional requirements governing appeals from decisions of administrative agencies.

If you have any questions concerning this authorization under the Small Renewable Energy Project Permit By Rule, please contact Mary E. Major at 804-698-4423.

Sincerely,

/S/

Michael G. Dowd
Director, Air and Renewable Energy Division